

In the Claims

Please add claims 41-47 as follows:

*Dub 7*

22. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the method comprising:

- a) providing a support device, the support device including:
  - i) an engaging layer including an adhesive for securing the support device to the tissues;
  - ii) a surface layer;
  - iii) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer; and
  - iv) a release liner removeably attached to the engaging layer, the release liner comprising a first lateral piece, a second lateral piece, and an intermediate piece;
- b) removing the intermediate piece of the release liner from the support device to expose an intermediate portion of the engaging layer;
- c) aligning the support device at a midregion over the nasal passages such that the intermediate portion of the engaging layer is between the first and second nasal passages;
- d) securing the intermediate portion of the engaging layer to the midregion;
- e) removing the first lateral piece of the release liner and securing a first portion of the engaging layer adjacent the first nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the first nasal passage; and
- f) removing the second lateral piece of the release liner and securing a second portion of the engaging layer adjacent the second nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the second nasal passage.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the support device supports tissues overlying the nasal passages of an animal to facilitate air flow through the nasal passages of the animal.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the support device supports tissues overlying the nasal passages of a horse.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including configuring the support device with a carrier layer releasably mounted to the surface layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further including grasping the carrier during application of the support device to avoid contacting the adhesive of the engaging layer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further including removing the carrier from the support device once the support device is secured to the tissues.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including configuring the support device with at least two lift members.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further including configuring the support device with an engagement extension extending laterally beyond the lift members.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including configuring the support device to include:

- a) a first side piece for engaging a first lateral vestibular wall overlying a first nasal passage, the first side piece having a rostral end, a caudal end and a first rostral-poll dimension;
- b) a second side piece for engaging a second lateral vestibular wall overlying a second nasal passage, the second side piece having a rostral end, a caudal end and a second rostral-poll dimension;
- c) a midline region including an intersection of the first and second side pieces, the midline region having a rostral end, a caudal end and a midline region rostral-

poll dimension that is greater than either of the first rostral-poll dimension and the second rostral-poll dimension.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the support device is a dark color to reduce the likelihood of the support device causing interference with the progression of a sports event.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including monitoring placement of the intermediate portion of the engaging layer and selectively re-aligning the support device prior to removing the first and second lateral pieces of the release liner.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein aligning and securing the intermediate portion of the engaging layer over the nasal passage is performed prior to securing the first and second portions of the engaging layer so that adjustments to the position of the support device can be made prior to securing the first and second engaging layer portions.

34. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- a) an engaging layer including an adhesive for attaching the support device to the tissues;
- b) a surface layer;
- c) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer, the support layer including at least one lift member, the lift member having a first end, a second end and a midregion located between the first and second ends; and
- d) a release liner attached to the engaging layer, the release liner including:
  - i) a first removable intermediate piece covering the midregion of the lift member;
  - ii) a second removable lateral piece covering the first end of the lift member;

ii) a third removable lateral piece covering the second end of the lift member; and

iii) wherein removal of the first removable intermediate piece permits adhesion of the lift member's midregion prior to securing the first and second ends of the lift member.

35. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, further including a carrier layer releasably mounted to the surface layer.

36. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, wherein the support layer includes at least two lift members.

37. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, having an engagement extension extending laterally beyond the lift member.

38. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, configured to include:

- a) a first side piece for engaging a first lateral vestibular wall overlying a first nasal passage, the first side piece having a rostral end, a caudal end and a first rostral-poll dimension;
- b) a second side piece for engaging a second lateral vestibular wall overlying a second nasal passage, the second side piece having a rostral end, a caudal end and a second rostral-poll dimension; and
- c) a midline region including an intersection of the first and second side pieces, the midline region having rostral end, a caudal end and a midline region rostral-poll dimension that is greater than either of the first rostral-poll dimension and the second rostral poll dimension.

39. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, wherein the support device is configured to fit the nose of a horse.

40. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 34, wherein the surface layer is a dark color.

41. (New) A method for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the method comprising:

- a) providing a support device, the support device including:
  - i) an engaging layer including an adhesive for securing the support device to the tissues;
  - ii) a surface layer;
  - iii) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer; and
  - iv) a release liner removeably attached to the engaging layer, the release liner comprising a first lateral piece, a second lateral piece, and an intermediate piece;
- b) removing the intermediate piece of the release liner from the support device to expose an intermediate portion of the engaging layer;
- c) aligning the support device at a midregion over the nasal passages such that the intermediate portion of the engaging layer is between the first and second nasal passages;
- d) securing the intermediate portion of the engaging layer to the midregion;
- e) removing the first lateral piece of the release liner and securing a first portion of the engaging layer adjacent the first nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the first nasal passage; and
- f) removing the second lateral piece of the release liner and securing a second portion of the engaging layer adjacent the second nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the second nasal passage;
- g) wherein the support device supports the first and second nasal passages of an animal to facilitate air flow through the nasal passages of the animal.

42. (New) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- a) an engaging layer including an adhesive for attaching the support device to the tissues;
- b) a surface layer;
- c) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer, the support layer including at least one lift member, the lift member having a first end, a second end and a midregion located between the first and second ends; and
- d) a release liner attached to the engaging layer, the release liner including:
  - i) a first removable intermediate piece covering the midregion of the lift member;
  - ii) a second removable lateral piece covering the first end of the lift member;
  - iii) a third removable lateral piece covering the second end of the lift member; and
  - iv) wherein removal of the first removable intermediate piece permits adhesion of the lift member's midregion prior to securing the first and second ends of the lift member;
- e) wherein the support device supports the first and second nasal passages of an animal to facilitate air flow through the nasal passages of the animal.

43. (New) A method for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the method comprising:

- a) providing a support device, the support device including:
  - i) an engaging layer including an adhesive for securing the support device to the tissues;
  - ii) a surface layer;
  - iii) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer;
  - iv) a release liner removably attached to the engaging layer, the release liner comprising a first lateral piece, a second lateral piece, and an intermediate piece; and
  - v) a carrier layer releasably mounted to the surface layer;

- b) grasping the carrier;
- c) removing the intermediate piece of the release liner from the support device to expose an intermediate portion of the engaging layer;
- d) aligning the support device at a midregion over the nasal passages such that the intermediate portion of the engaging layer is between the first and second nasal passages;
- e) securing the intermediate portion of the engaging layer to the midregion;
- f) removing the first lateral piece of the release liner and securing a first portion of the engaging layer adjacent the first nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the first nasal passage;
- g) removing the second lateral piece of the release liner and securing a second portion of the engaging layer adjacent the second nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the second nasal passage; and
- h) removing the carrier from carrier from the support device.

44. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the exposed intermediate portion has an area less than a remaining unexposed area.

45. (New) The support device of claim 34, wherein the first removable intermediate piece is sized to expose less than a majority of the engaging layer when detached from the engaging layer.

46. (New) A method for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the method comprising:

- a) providing a support device, the support device including:
  - i) an engaging layer including an adhesive for securing the support device to the tissues;
  - ii) a surface layer;
  - iii) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer; and

- iv) a release liner removeably attached to the engaging layer, the release liner comprising a first lateral piece, a second lateral piece, and an intermediate piece;
- b) removing the intermediate piece of the release liner from the support device to expose a center portion of the engaging layer;
- c) centering the exposed center portion of the engaging layer over the nasal passages;
- d) determining an alignment of the exposed center portion with respect to a midregion over the nasal passages such that the exposed center portion of the engaging layer is between the first and second nasal passages;
- e) securing the center portion of the engaging layer to the midregion;
- f) removing the first lateral piece of the release liner and securing a first portion of the engaging layer adjacent the first nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the first nasal passage; and
- g) removing the second lateral piece of the release liner and securing a second portion of the engaging layer adjacent the second nasal passage to provide support to the tissue overlying the second nasal passage.

47. (New) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- a) an engaging layer including an adhesive for attaching the support device to the tissues;
- b) a surface layer;
- c) a support layer positioned between the engaging layer and surface layer, the support layer including at least one lift member, the lift member having a first end, a second end and a midregion located between the first and second ends; and
- d) a release liner attached to the engaging layer, the release liner including:
  - i) a first removable intermediate piece covering the midregion of the lift member;
  - ii) a second removable lateral piece covering the first end of the lift member;

- ii) a third removable lateral piece covering the second end of the lift member; and
- iii) wherein removal of the first removable intermediate piece exposes the lift member's midregion for positioning the support device at a central alignment with respect to the first and second nasal passages, and permits adhesion of the lift member's midregion prior to securing the first and second ends of the lift member.